Govt to spend K12 billion on maintenance of Ayeyawady, Chindwin rivers

The government will inject K12 billion mainly on maintenance of the riverbeds and water ways of the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers. Respective regional governments will also carry out preventive measures against erosion of the rivers in their regions,” an official of the ministry said.

Out of K12 billion budget, K127 million will be allocated to maintenance of the Twantay Canal, which is vital for transportation by waterways to and from Yangon and the Ayeyawady delta region, he added.

The Ayeyawady River is eroding at many places along the river and the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is currently repairing places where erosions are most serious.

The directorate is committed to development of river transportation on the two rivers and competed the assessment on possibilities for building four low-head dams on the Ayeyawady in central Myanmar recently.

The water level of the Ayeyawady River reached above its danger level of 1,260 cm in the rainy season to 720 cm in the summer season in Mandalay.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of the National League for Democracy, joins tens of thousands of other prominent and ordinary mourners at the funeral of NLD co-founder U Win Tin.

U Win Tin died of renal failure in hospital in Yangon on Monday. He was 85.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE
Union Home Affairs
Minister meets UNODC representative
NAV PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko welcomed Mr. Jean Luc, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-UNODC Director for the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs and party on Wednesday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and UNODC.

People-centred programmes crucial for national development: Union minister
NAV PYI TAW, 23 April—The Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development on Wednesday said that people-centred programmes are crucial for the national development and that the government will take measures to implement them.

Dr. Kan Zaw said, “The government is implementing rural development programmes and poverty alleviation plans for the welfares of the people.”

On 20 April, the minister visited the construction site of an extended medical ward at a 50-bed People’s Hospital in Salin Township of Magway Region, and witnessed land erosion at the bank of Ayeyawady River and a middle school.

He also inspected the construction of concrete roads and paddy cultivation in the area.

Deputy FM, CEO Kantana and JK Consulting Management sign sponsorship management operator agreement for ASEAN Summit

Tens of thousands ...

(From page 1) of Human Rights Watch saying in a statement that, “We are deeply saddened by his death — an irreparable loss for Burma’s human rights community.”

U Win Tin died on Monday of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon.—NLM

The agreement was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, chairman of the Sub-committee on Logistics and Administration, ASEAN Summit and related Summits and Related Summits was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

placeable loss for Burma’s human rights community.”

U Win Tin died on Monday of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon.—NLM

The agreement was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, chairman of the Sub-committee on Logistics and Administration, ASEAN Summit and related Summits and Related Summits was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

... and Public Affairs and party on Wednesday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and UNODC.

People-centred programmes crucial for national development: Union minister

NAV PYI TAW, 23 April—The Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development on Wednesday said that people-centred programmes are crucial for the national development and that the government will take measures to implement them.

Dr. Kan Zaw said, “The government is implementing rural development programmes and poverty alleviation plans for the welfares of the people.”

On 20 April, the minister visited the construction site of an extended medical ward at a 50-bed People’s Hospital in Salin Township of Magway Region, and witnessed land erosion at the bank of Ayeyawady River and a middle school.

He also inspected the construction of concrete roads and paddy cultivation in the area.

Deputy FM, CEO Kantana and JK Consulting Management sign sponsorship management operator agreement for ASEAN Summit

Tens of thousands ...

(From page 1) of Human Rights Watch saying in a statement that, “We are deeply saddened by his death — an irreparable loss for Burma’s human rights community.”

U Win Tin died on Monday of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon.—NLM

The agreement was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, chairman of the Sub-committee on Logistics and Administration, ASEAN Summit and related Summits and Related Summits was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

placeable loss for Burma’s human rights community.”

U Win Tin died on Monday of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon.—NLM

The agreement was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, chairman of the Sub-committee on Logistics and Administration, ASEAN Summit and related Summits and Related Summits was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

... and Public Affairs and party on Wednesday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and UNODC.

People-centred programmes crucial for national development: Union minister

NAV PYI TAW, 23 April—The Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development on Wednesday said that people-centred programmes are crucial for the national development and that the government will take measures to implement them.

Dr. Kan Zaw said, “The government is implementing rural development programmes and poverty alleviation plans for the welfares of the people.”

On 20 April, the minister visited the construction site of an extended medical ward at a 50-bed People’s Hospital in Salin Township of Magway Region, and witnessed land erosion at the bank of Ayeyawady River and a middle school.

He also inspected the construction of concrete roads and paddy cultivation in the area.

Deputy FM, CEO Kantana and JK Consulting Management sign sponsorship management operator agreement for ASEAN Summit

Tens of thousands ...

(From page 1) of Human Rights Watch saying in a statement that, “We are deeply saddened by his death — an irreparable loss for Burma’s human rights community.”

U Win Tin died on Monday of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon.—NLM

The agreement was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, chairman of the Sub-committee on Logistics and Administration, ASEAN Summit and related Summits and Related Summits was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

placeable loss for Burma’s human rights community.”

U Win Tin died on Monday of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon.—NLM

The agreement was signed by U Tin Oo Lwin, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, chairman of the Sub-committee on Logistics and Administration, ASEAN Summit and related Summits and Related Summits was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

... and Public Affairs and party on Wednesday at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and UNODC.
Great strides needed to establish markets for Myanmar’s jade and gems in the country

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April — President U Thein Sein called on the Myanmar Gem Entrepreneurs Association to make more effort to establish markets for Myanmar’s jade and gems during his visit to Shwe Kyar Pin finished jade lots and gem and jewellery market in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday morning.

On his arrival at Sein Lin Yadana jewellery shop in the market, the President called for more manufacturing of lots of jade and more employment for locals in gems and jewellery businesses.

He observed jade carving and polished gem and jade jewellery at Sein Lin Yadana and Wai gem and jewellery shops.

At Treasure Gems jewellery shop, the president heard a report on the market presented by Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung.

Chairman of Myanmar Gem Entrepreneurs Association U Tay Za and vice-chairmen U Yone Mu and U La Phaing Khun Sa, and the vice-chairman of Myanmar Gem Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay) elaborated on raw materials for the gem and jewellery market, needs for market promotion, taxation matters and work to be done for selling value-added products through online, regular holding of gem emporiums, a one-stop service centre in Mandalay and jade and gems export.

In his address, the president called for systematic methods to be used in natural resources extraction for the good of the next generation and stressed the need to calculate the maximum amount of jade and gem stocks in the country with the help of experts so that the association will know the amount of jade and gem stocks that can be mined yearly.

He called on those present to try hard for access to foreign markets and to set the same policies in operating gem and jewellery markets that will be opened in Mandalay and Myitkyina.

With online market development, it is required to make arrangements for the sale of gems and jewellery online, he added.

Shwe Kyar Pin finished gem and jewellery market was opened on 1 December, 2013 with the aim of having access to foreign markets for value-added polished products instead of selling rough gems and development of the finished gem and jewellery market in the country, thereby contributing towards job creation and developing human resources and improving technology. Now, jade sculptures, jade bracelets and jade beads are available at the market and work is underway to manufacture finished products and organize exhibitions. It is planned to set up a one-stop service centre and a gem and jewellery training school at the market.—MNA

Preparation for President’s Excellent Award ceremony held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Nang Thein urged the attendees Wednesday to prepare for successfully holding the President’s Excellent Award Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy ministers and department officials participated in the discussions on presentation of awards.

Region and state ministers and officials also attended the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar must invest in youth to ensure human resources development: Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called on regional and state ministers not only to support outstanding youth, but also to invest in them to see human resources development of the country at a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

In his address at the meeting on holding a youth get-together in which outstanding students, outstanding young Red Cross Society members and scouts will participate on 3 May this year, the Vice-President stressed the need to fully support those who are “equipped with a righteous mindset and an understanding about Myanmar topography and culture as they will lead the country’s political, economic, social and administrative mechanisms in future.”

He said that an award ceremony for outstanding persons and a dinner to honour them will be held in conjunction with the youth get-together on the same day in Nay Pyi Taw. It is aimed at encouraging youths to admire award-winning persons who will inspire them with confidence.

Talking about organizations that are giving the youth the desire to do good things, he spoke words of praise about the strength of the Myanmar Red Cross Society that has been operating for many years.

The Vice-President called on those present at the meeting to give their advice on the preparation for the youth get-together to be held early next month.

After hearing reports presented by Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi, Director-General U Min Zaw of No 3 Basic Education Department, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tha Hla Shwe, the Vice-President left concluding remarks. He pointed out that today’s youth are spending all their time studying and that knowledge is needed to keep up with events in a rapidly changing world.

For this year, 525 young students, 146 young Red Cross Society members and 490 scouts have been selected as outstanding youth. They will be grouped into teams to receive training at camps in Ngwehsaung, Inlay, Bagan, Yangon and PyinOoLwin. Those from the designated camps will have to be accommodated at a centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 May.

Myanmar has more than 16 million youth—five and a half million youth aged 15-19 years, five and half million youth in the age bracket 20-25 years, and five million youth from 25-29 years of age.

MNA
Flower yields increasing in Mandalay

PyinOoLwin, 23 April—Flower cultivation yields in PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Region are rising due to the temperate climate and sufficient underground water, locals said Wednesday.

A flower-seller from Pathein Township said: “I purchase flowers from the garden in the evening and carry them to the flower wholesale market by a motorcycle the next morning.”

Some local gardeners are planting flower species that can produce as many as 60,000 plants per acre at nurseries. Each nursery is worth about K 2 million and net profit is about K 1.5 million per acre each cultivation season.

The retailers from Mandalay downtown area come to this market to distribute the flowers. PyinOoLwin, the centre of the country’s principal flower and vegetable production, intensively grows the flowers such as chrysanthemums, asters and gladioli, which are sent across the country throughout the year.

The town formerly called Maymyo is in the Shan Highland about 42 miles east of Mandalay.

US archaeologists to renovate Myanmar historic monastery in Mandalay

Mandalay, 23 April—Archaeologists from the United States along with Myanmar cultural experts will start renovating Shwenandaw Monastery in Mandalay in the last week of April, officials said.


Tampawadi U Win Maung and U Aye Myint, prominent Myanmar archaeologists from Mandalay, and experts from Mandalay Technology University and the Ministry of Culture will contribute to the work.

The project is mainly sponsored by the diplomatic fund of U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell.

The renovation will include conservation, fire prevention and easy flow of water along the woodcut gutters of the monastery.

The Shwenandaw Monastery was built in 1880 by King Thibaw. The original building was heavily gilt with gold and adorned with glass mosaic work. It is famous for its teak carvings of Buddhist mythology at the walls and on the ceiling.

Thihka Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay’s famous U Bein Bridge in Amarapura is undergoing preservation work

Mandalay, 23 April—The piers and floors of the 160-year old U Bein Bridge in Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township in Mandalay are urgently in need of repair and preservation is being carried out under the supervision of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch) of the Ministry of Culture.

The Mandalay Region government contributed K 1.3 million so damaged piers and floors could be replaced with the new hardwood as a first phase.

U Bein Bridge, a major tourist attraction in central Myanmar, was built of teak piers from old Inwa Palace in 1211 Myanmar Era by Amarapura Town clerk U Bein during the reign of King Bagan.

The 3,967 ft long bridge consists of 1,086 piers and 482 chambers. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch) has told the public not to ride bicycles and motorcycles on the bridge to ensure its durability and longevity.

Thihka Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Pilgrims flock to holy sites in Mandalay’s mountain to escape heat

Mandalay, 23 April—Due to the current scorching temperatures, the holy sites of Yankin Mountain and Ngayantmin Cave in Pathein Township of Mandalay Region have seen a huge increase in pilgrims, according to local officials. Famous for its natural cave, Ngayantmin is a major site for devout Buddhists, with many now also visiting to cool down in the luscious surroundings. Yankin Mountain and Ngayantmin Cave can be accessed easily as the sites are connected by a concrete road, officials said.

Thihka Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Central Myanmar town installs four digital traffic lights

Mercilla, 23 April—A central Myanmar town in Mandalay Region has set up four digital traffic lights on 23 April at its busiest junctions, officials said. A ceremony to mark the project was attended by representatives of the National Parliament as well as a number of local officials, with Mandalay Region officials saying they allocated K 20 million for the traffic lights in Meiktila Township.

The general public contributed K 1.2 million for the construction of three traffic light control stations, officials said.

Chun Thu (Meiktila)
China military says faces ‘complex’ task keeping secrets

BEIJING, 23 April—China’s military faces a “severe and complex” task in maintaining secrecy, especially given the widespread use of the internet and mobile communications, and needs to ensure security is tightened, a top military paper said on Wednesday.

“Have a clear understanding of the severe and complex situation faced in maintaining secrecy, always remain sober-minded and spare no effort to keep secrets safe,” it said.

The military has ordered a special check-up and overhaul to check loopholes in the management of documents and other items carrying classified information, as well as secret sites and activities, the newspaper said.

Modern communications technology meant measures need to be taken to ensure “infallible security of confidential military information”. The newspaper did not give specific examples or mention any recent lapses that may have caused the new order to be issued. A separate commentary in the same newspaper said military secrecy is vital to the army’s survival, development and the outcome of any battles it may fight. “The country is faced with an increasingly complicated security environment and intensified competition in armed forces, which have fuelled rivalries in the scramble for information,” the commentary said. “There is no reason to be too optimistic about current secrecy measures”, because problems still exist in certain fields, it said.

Despite proclaiming that its military spending and modernisation is transparent, China keeps tight control over information regarding its armed forces, including banning foreign media from monthly defence ministry conferences. While the United States frequently accuses China, including its military, of hacking computer servers, China says it is a target of hacking attacks by the United States. The White House has said that the US does not spy to gain commercial advantage.

China will beef up its internet security after reports that the US government spied on a major telecommunications firm, the Defence Ministry said last month.—Reuters

First PLO delegation since 2007 war arrives in Gaza for unity talks

GAZA, 23 April — Palestinian Liberation Organization delegates arrived in Gaza on Tuesday to discuss unity with militant group Hamas for the first time since their 2007 conflict, in a potential boost for Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas.

Several Palestinian officials have expressed concern at the deadlock that has paralysed Palestinian politics, and many have low expectations of any resolution to the seemingly endless duel. A deal could restore a measure of sovereignty to Abbas in Gaza and boost his negotiating power with Israel in any future peace talks, although such a partnership could also provoke a backlash from Israel against the PLO in the occupied West Bank. The reconciliation mission coincided with a meeting between Abbas’s Fatah-led group and Israeli peace negotiators in Jerusalem to try to extend talks beyond an 29 April deadline. Hamas and Fatah have failed since 2011 to implement an Egyptian-brokered unity deal because of disputes over power-sharing and the handling of conflict with Israel.

Azzam Al-Ahmed, a senior Fatah official, denied that the attempt to negotiate a deal with Hamas was designed merely to strengthen Abbas’s hand in talks with Israel. “We want to end the division whether there is a pressing need among the Palestinian leadership to end the Palestinian division whether there are talks with Israel or not. Al-Ahmed arrived to Gaza on Tuesday atop a delegation appointed by Abbas to hold discussions in Gaza with Hamas officials about the reconciliation.—Xinhua

China’s President Xi Jinping walks next to a honour guard during the welcoming ceremony for Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 26 August, 2013.—Reuters

US to deliver Apache helicopters to Egypt, relaxing hold on aid

WASHINGTON, 23 April — The United States said on Tuesday it will deliver 10 Apache attack helicopters to Egypt, relaxing a partial suspension of aid imposed after Egypt’s military ousted President Mohamed Morsi last year and cracked down violently on protesters.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel informed his Egyptian counterpart of the decision, which will help Egypt’s counter-terrorism operations in the Sinai Peninsula, the Pentagon said.

“We believe these new helicopters will help the Egyptian government counter extremists who threaten US, Egyptian, and Israeli security,” Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby said in a statement, recounting Hagel’s conversation with Egyptian Defence Minister Colonel Sedki Sobhi. Secretary of State John Kerry had paved the way by certifying to Congress that Egypt met key criteria for Washington to resume some aid.

Those criteria included Egypt “upholding its obligations under the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty,” the State Department said.

But Kerry noted in a call with his counterpart that he was not yet able to certify that Egypt was taking steps to support a democratic transition. One US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no other military aid beyond the Apache, built by Boeing, China, was freed up at the moment. That meant that delivery of other hardware, like F-16 fighter jets produced by Lockheed Martin Corp, remained on hold.

In a call with Egypt’s foreign minister, Kerry “urged Egypt to follow through on its commitment to transition to democracy — including by conducting free, fair, and transparent elections.” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. That could send a signal to Egypt ahead of next month’s presidential election, which Abdel Fattah al-Sissi, the former army general who deposed Morsi, is expected to win.

Kerry also called on Egypt to ease restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and the media, she said.—Reuters

Hamas deputy leader Musa Abu Marzuk (3rd R) speaks with the head of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Azzam al-Ahmad (2nd R), a senior figure in Fatah Party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, during a meeting in Gaza City on 22 April, 2014. Azzam al-Ahmed, Fatah official in charge of the reconciliation file, told reporters in Ramallah that there is a pressing need among the Palestinian leadership to end the Palestinian division whether there are talks with Israel or not. Al-Ahmed arrived to Gaza on Tuesday atop a delegation appointed by Abbas to hold discussions in Gaza with Hamas officials about the reconciliation.—Xinhua
Thai court gives PM more time in abuse of power case

BANGKOK, 23 April — Thailand’s Constitutional Court on Wednesday gave Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra until early May to defend herself against charges of abuse of power, delaying a verdict that could see her removed from office.

The charges relate to the transfer of National Security Council chief Thawil Pliensri in 2011, which opponents say was designed to benefit her Puea Thai Party. If found guilty, Yingluck could be forced to step down and some legal experts say the whole government would have to go with her. Yingluck, who heads a caretaker government with limited powers, has been undermined by six months of street protests as well as various legal challenges against her, which have intensified since February. Thawil was reinstated to his post in March but the Constitutional Court accepted a case brought against Yingluck by a group of 27 senators who petitioned it to rule that her removal of the security chief violated the constitution.

“The prime minister will be given until 2 May to present her defence and gather further evidence,” Somrit Chaiwong, a Constitutional Court spokesman, told Reuters. Any judgment that removes Yingluck will escalate tension between her supporters and the anti-government protesters. Some fear an increase in violence that could prompt intervention by the coup-proven military.

US vows more sanctions on Russia unless tensions ease in Ukraine

Arseny Yatseniuk. “With Foreign Minister Lavrov, the secretary expressed deep concern over the lack of positive Russian steps to de-escalate, citing mounting evidence that separatists continue to increase the number of buildings under occupation and take journalists and other civilians captive,” he said. “He urged Russia to tone down escalatory rhetoric, engage diplomatically in the east with the OSCE and Ukrainian government, and issue public statements calling for those occupying buildings to disarm and stand down in exchange for amnesty,” he added.

The official said Kerry also reiterated that the absence of measurable progress on implementing last week’s Geneva agreement would result in increased sanctions on Russia.

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Lavrov had told Kerry that Ukraine must take urgent steps to implement the Geneva agreement aimed at defusing the Ukraine crisis. The US official said Kerry had told Yatseniuk that Kiev must take important steps as well to de-escalate tensions, “including progress on amnesty legislation, steps toward broadening the national dialogue on constitutional reform to include representatives of all regions and close coordination with the OSCE monitoring mission.”

Washington has said it would decide “in days” on additional sanctions if Russia does not take steps to implement the agreement.—Reuters

Satellites show North Korea nuclear test unlikely

“Recent operations at Punggye-ri have not reached the high level of intensity — in terms of vehicle, personnel and equipment movement — that occurred in the weeks prior to past detonations,” it said. “Moreover, other possible indicators present before the North Korean nuclear tests in 2009 and 2013, such as communicators vans and a satellite dish intended to transmit pre-test data, have not been spotted.”

Work at the site is seasonal and often picks up in the Korean spring. Some earlier satellite images had suggested the North was digging multiple tunnels, which could possibly indicate that it was planning more than one nuclear detonation. 38North acknowledge that the commercial satellite imagery it uses may present an incomplete picture of the highly secretive state.

The comments by the South Koreans have been repeated frequently in the past and there was little new in their assessment this week that the North could be ready to launch a new test at short notice.

Russia says Ukraine must urgently implement Geneva deal

MOSCOW, 23 April — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a telephone call with US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday that Ukraine must take urgent steps to implement a deal aimed at defusing the Ukraine crisis, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Lavrov said orders for the army to be deployed in the crisis should be reversed, the Right Sector Ukrainian nationalist group should be disarmed, arrested activists in southeast Ukraine freed and constitutional reforms started, the ministry said.

The call was a US initiative and the two men agreed to maintain contact, it said. —Reuters
**Obama reassures Japan, other allies on China ahead of visit**

Tokyo, 23 April — US President Barack Obama has said Washington welcomes China’s rise but that engagement with Beijing would not come at the expense of its Asian allies — as Chinese state media greeted his imminent arrival in the region with a broadside accusing the United States of wanting to “cage” the emerging superpower.

Obama’s remarks, aimed at reassuring Japan and other allies, set against a robust commentary from China’s state news agency Xinhua that also called the United States “myopic”, demonstrate the delicate balancing act Obama faces on a week-long Asia tour.

The four-nation trip that starts in Tokyo later on Wednesday comes at a time of rising tension in the region, and as the United States urges Japan’s unpredictable neighbour North Korea not to conduct another nuclear test.

Obama, who will be making the first full state visit to Japan by a US President since 1996, must assuage worries by Tokyo and other allies that his commitment to their defence in the face of an increasingly assertive China is weak, without hurting vital US ties with Asia’s biggest economy.

Noting Beijing and Washington could work together on issues such as North Korea’s nuclear programme, Obama told the Yomiuri newspaper, in written remarks: “In other words, we welcome the continuing rise of a China that is stable, prosperous and peaceful and plays a responsible role in global affairs.”

He added: “And our engagement with China does not and will not come at the expense of Japan or any other ally.”

Such assurances are likely to be high on the agenda when Obama meets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a symbolic summit on Thursday.

Japan, whose ties with rival China have chilled over the past two years, has been beset by anxiety over the degree to which reality matches rhetoric in Obama’s promised “pivot” of US military and diplomatic power in the region as “a carefully calculated scheme to cage the rapidly developing Asian giant”.

“The United States should reappraise its anachronistic hegemonic alliance system and stop pampering its chums like Japan and the Philippines that have been igniting regional tensions with provocative moves,” it said.— Reuters

**Japan’s largest solar power plant in operation in Oita**

OITA, (Japan), 23 April — An opening ceremony was held in Oita city, southwestern Japan, on Wednesday for the nation’s largest solar power plant.

The plant run by trading house Marubeni Corp’s wholly owned subsidiary Oita Solar Power Corp is capable of generating 82.02 megawatts of electricity, enough to cover demand from 30,000 households.

The electricity will be sold to Kyushu Electric Power Co for the next 20 years, with 3.5 billion yen of revenue expected annually. Marubeni has invested 24 billion yen in some 340,000 solar panels and other facilities at the 105-hectare reclamation site in the city’s seaside industrial zone, which began commercial operation recently.

“We would like to contribute to popularizing renewable energy while making efforts to keep the operation safe and stable,” Marubeni President Fumiyaka Kokubu said.

The industrial zone also hosts a 26.5-megawatt solar power plant run by JGC Corp and a 17-megawatt plant run by Mitsu Engineering & Shipbuilding Co.— Kyodo News

**Scottish leader says independence could benefit northern England**

LONDON, 23 April — An independent Scotland would work closely with northern England to boost its economy and job opportunities, Scottish leader Alex Salmond will say on Wednesday in a bid to allay concerns south of the border about Scotland quitting the United Kingdom.

Salmond is expected to use a speech marking St George’s Day, England’s national day, to stress that ties and friendship between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom would continue if Scots voted to go it alone in a September 18 referendum.

Brushing aside a refusal by the main British parties to share the pound if Scotland breaks away, Salmond will insist to business leaders in Carlisle, 10 miles south of the border, that trade and transport links would stay strong and the currency stay the same if Scotland did become independent.

He will say that an independent Scotland will be an economic counterweight to London and the south-east of England, tapping into feelings among some in northern England as well as Scotland that they get a raw deal from distant, London-based lawmakers.— Reuters

**Serendipity aids Egypt in struggle to recover stolen heritage**

CAIRO, 23 April — When French Egyptologist Olivier Perdu saw a fragment of a pharaonic statue on display in a Brussels gallery last year, he assumed it was a twin of an ancient masterpiece he had admired in the Cairo Museum during the 1989 revolution.

It was part of the very same artifact — a unique 6th century BC statue bewn from pale green stone — that Perdu had received special permission to study in Cairo in 1989. The statue, a 29 cm-high (11 inches) representation of a man wearing a pharaonic headdress and holding a shrine to Osiris, the god of the afterlife, was smashed by looters who broke into the Cairo Museum during the 2011 uprising against Hosni Mubarak.

Its top portion had been missing since then.

“I was just astonished,” Perdu told Reuters. “Through examining all the stains and irregularities, I could conclude that it was indeed the same piece.”

“What I had between my hands in Brussels was the object that I had studied in the Cairo museum in 1989.”

Thanks to his chance encounter, the piece excavated in 1858 has found its way back to Egypt. Horrified to learn he had purchased a stolen artifact, the buyer offered to surrender it right away, Perdu said. It is now back in Cairo, where conservation experts have reunited it with the rest of the statue.— Reuters
Global warming and renewable energy in Myanmar

By Aung Khin

The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released on April 13, introduced 1,200 suggestions on how to reduce the worsening effects of global warming by 2100, with the proposals including planting more trees and relying much more on nuclear power.

To prepare for actions on climate, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited the heads of states and governments together with business, finance, civil society and local leaders to a Climate Summit, which is scheduled to be held in New York in September 2014, with the expectation to lay a concrete foundation for successful negotiations and sustained progress for reducing emission and strengthening adaptation strategies.

According to statistics of the Myanmar government, the use of renewable energy and fossil fuel energy has increased in the 10 years from 2000. The total installed renewable capacity is now 150 MW, and the Ministry of Energy has targeted an additional 500 MW of renewable energy by 2015, representing 15 percent of the current installed capacity.

Under these circumstances, the country needs international assistance to develop solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy and geothermal energy as these projects require high capital costs and technological knowledge. The Asia Development Bank estimates that households in the rural areas of Myanmar are using 2.5 cubic tonnes of fuel wood per year.

The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry forecasts this amount will decline due to greater reliance on energy efficient stoves and alternative energy sources such as hydropower and natural gas.

The expenditure for the use of natural gas is considerably expensive, and 74 percent of Myanmar people still do not have consistent access to electricity, causing them to largely rely on woods and fuels for energy in many areas of the country.

Therefore, Myanmar people should get enough alternative sources of renewable energy to fight against global warming.

The Art of Selling

The art of selling is called Salesmanship. Salesmanship calls for being Pleasant, Pleasing and Persuasive on the part of the seller. There is no room for Pride, Prejudice and Pomp in Salesmanship.

What is Selling?
- Selling is Helping People to Buy.
- Selling is Satisfying a Demand.
- Selling is Delivering Value (Superior/Best Value) to Customers.
- Selling is Providing Core Benefits to End-Users.
- Selling is Convincing Public about the Integrity of One’s Brand Equity.
- Selling is Establishing One’s Brand Value.
- Selling is Trust Building.
- Selling is Establishing Win-Win Relationship with Customers.
- Selling is Consolidating the Bottom Line i.e. Profit.
- Selling is having or maintaining a Cutting Edge.
- Selling is Standing Out from the Crowd.
- Selling is Making a Difference.
- Selling is A Mission.
- Selling is Earning Income.
- Selling is Revenue Accumulation.
- Selling is Reinforcing the Citadel of Customer-Base.
- The art of Salesmanship is winning over the hearts and minds and the wallets of the Customers.

Official Definition of Selling

Selling is helping people to buy the right product/service, at the right price, at the right place, and at the right time.

Importance of Effective Selling

Supply without demand is of no value; producing/manufacturing without selling spells insolvency. The only profit in business is in Sales; everything else is expense. So, demand creation is very important. Unless you can successfully, economically and profitably pass the product/service over the counter to the consuming public, all the producing/manufacturing is in vain. Hence, Better Selling is the key to Better Business. The fundamental compelling insight in salesmanship is to sell IDEAS and FEELINGS. Ideas and feelings of Beauty, Health, Esteem, Glory, Superiority, Prosperity, Economy, Service and the like.

Some Crucial Attributes of Effective Selling are:
- Solid Passion to Sell
- Strong Capacity for Hard Work
- Authenticity
- Reliability
- Constructive Attitude
- Integrity and Humility
- Confidence and Rapport
- Loyalty to the Product/Service & the Company
- Cheerfulness
- Empathy, and Understanding of Customers’ needs and wants and expectations
- Patience and Persistence
- Enthusiasm for and Whole-hearted Devotion to Selling.
- Thorough knowledge of the product/service, knowledge of the organization of the firm, and knowledge of the Customer and Market Trends.

Buying Motives:
In order to be able to sell effectively, sellers must understand with sympathy why customers buy. They have got to know the real reasons behind buying. The following are some important Buying Motives:
- Gain of Money
- Satisfaction of Caution/Prudence
- Utility Value
- Satisfaction of Pride
- Sentiment
- Satisfaction of Pleasure
- Benefit of Health

Selling Strategy:
To deliver Best Value to the Customers

Sales Tactics:
- Offering Unique Selling Point
- Giving a Compelling Promise
- Establishing some Attractive, Appealing Benefits
- Establishing Accessibility/Availability
- Appreciating Customer Relationship Management
- Positioning Brand Equity and Brand Value by holding highest the banner of Quality, Differentiation and Value.

Sales Approaches:
- Aggressive Sales
- Defensive Sales
- Hard Sales
- Soft Sales
- Offensive Sales
- Partnership Sales

Common Weak Points of Sales Personnel
1. Poor Planning of time and effort
2. Lack of effort, motivation, and aggressiveness
3. Failure to call and develop prospects

Conclusion:

But, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry forecasts this amount will decline due to greater reliance on energy efficient stoves and alternative energy sources such as hydropower and natural gas.

The expenditure for the use of natural gas is considerably expensive, and 74 percent of Myanmar people still do not have consistent access to electricity, causing them to largely rely on woods and fuels for energy in many areas of the country.

Therefore, Myanmar people should get enough alternative sources of renewable energy to fight against global warming.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Many large fish dead in Myitta Lake of Sagaing Tsp**

**SAGAING, 23 April—**

High temperatures are believed behind the deaths of about 150 big fish in Myitta Lake near the Kaunghmu-taw Pagoda in Sagaing Township in the Sagaing Region after the New Year Festival. “Most people suspect...high temperatures or a low level of oxygen in the lake as daytime temperatures in the region have reached 42 °C these days,” a local resident said. “Some thought there may have been poisoning, but officials have already checked these fish and didn’t find any disease in the fish.”

The authorities are now arranging to bring fresh water to the lake and to install small water fountains to help aerate the lake water. Sagaing Region is in the northwest.

*Nanda Min lwun*

---

**Real estate prices moving higher in Mandalay**

**MANDALAY, 23 April—**

The Mandalay real estate market had been quite calm in Mandalay before the Maha Thintyan water festival, but since then prices have been edging upward as investors have begun to seek some plots in Mandalay and nearby areas.

In downtown Mandalay, the turnover of valuable land plots is still quite normal, but others areas are experiencing new interest.

A 30 ft x 40 ft plot in Chanmyathazi Township and in Myayinanda, Yadana-bon and Thinbangon new satellite towns is now going for K 40 million due to construction of new tarred roads, installation of streetlighting and rapid development. In Chanmyathazi Township and Kanhtaya and Aungthaya new towns, some buyers are paying K 80 million for 40 ft x 60 ft plots.

A house near Mingala market on 73rd Street sold for K 1,650 million, a 60 ft x 80 ft house in Kwesekan (1) Street on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway went for K 2,500 million and a house near Nan-shae in Aungmyethazan Township fetched K 900 million.

*Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

---

**Annual meeting on monetary services of cooperative societies held in Kyauk padaung Tsp**

**KYAUKPADAUNG, 23 April—**

Officials and members of the society. K100,000 loans each to 178 members in the ward in 2013 and it now provides K100,000 loans each to members of the society.

*Ko Nay (Kyauk padaung)*

---

**Road upgraded in Pyapon Tsp**

**PYAPON, 23 April—**

Pyapon Township Development Affairs Department and residents started road repaving work on 22 April along the Aungthirsa Road in Ward-3 and Ward-15 of the township with the aim of preventing transport problems during monsoons.

The over 1800 ft long and 12 ft wide tarred road completion of repairs to five reservoirs last year for Natogyi residents.

The authorities earlier completed two drinking water reservoirs and delivered more than 250 tube-wells to the residents of Taungtha Township.

Natogyi and Taungtha townships are in central Myanmar.

*Htay Myint Maung*

---

**Natogyi, Taungtha residents get new tube-wells, repaired reservoir**

**NATOGYI, 23 April—**

Under an arrangement of Mandalay Region Government, Chief Minister U Ye Myint marked delivery of water reservoirs and repaired drinking water reservoir to the people of Natogyi Township in Mandalay Region, on 18 April.

At a ceremony, the chief minister delivered 135 tube-wells and marked the turnover of valuable land plots is still quite normal, but others areas are experiencing new interest.

A 30 ft x 40 ft plot in Chanmyathazi Township and in Myayinanda, Yadana-bon and Thinbangon new satellite towns is now going for K 40 million due to construction of new tarred roads, installation of streetlighting and rapid development. In Chanmyathazi Township and Kanhtaya and Aungthaya new towns, some buyers are paying K 80 million for 40 ft x 60 ft plots.

A house near Mingala market on 73rd Street sold for K 1,650 million, a 60 ft x 80 ft house in Kwesekan (1) Street on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway went for K 2,500 million and a house near Nan-shae in Aungmyethazan Township fetched K 900 million.

*Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

---

**TODAY’S MYANMAR NEWS SITES**

**Natogyi, Taungtha residents get new tube-wells, repaired reservoir**

**NATOGYI, 23 April—**

Under an arrangement of Mandalay Region Government, Chief Minister U Ye Myint marked delivery of tube-wells and a repaired drinking water reservoir to the people of Natogyi Township in Mandalay Region, on 18 April.

At a ceremony, the chief minister delivered 135 tube-wells and marked the turnover of valuable land plots is still quite normal, but others areas are experiencing new interest.

A 30 ft x 40 ft plot in Chanmyathazi Township and in Myayinanda, Yadana-bon and Thinbangon new satellite towns is now going for K 40 million due to construction of new tarred roads, installation of streetlighting and rapid development. In Chanmyathazi Township and Kanhtaya and Aungthaya new towns, some buyers are paying K 80 million for 40 ft x 60 ft plots.

A house near Mingala market on 73rd Street sold for K 1,650 million, a 60 ft x 80 ft house in Kwesekan (1) Street on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway went for K 2,500 million and a house near Nan-shae in Aungmyethazan Township fetched K 900 million.

*Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

---

**Road upgraded in Pyapon Tsp**

**PYAPON, 23 April—**

Pyapon Township Development Affairs Department and residents started road repaving work on 22 April along the Aungthirsa Road in Ward-3 and Ward-15 of the township with the aim of preventing transport problems during monsoons.

The over 1800 ft long and 12 ft wide tarred road completion of repairs to five reservoirs last year for Natogyi residents.

The authorities earlier completed two drinking water reservoirs and delivered more than 250 tube-wells to the residents of Taungtha Township.

Natogyi and Taungtha townships are in central Myanmar.

*Htay Myint Maung*

---

**Many large fish dead in Myitta Lake of Sagaing Tsp**

**SAGAING, 23 April—**

High temperatures are believed behind the deaths of about 150 big fish in Myitta Lake near the Kaunghmu-taw Pagoda in Sagaing Township in the Sagaing Region after the New Year Festival. “Most people suspect...high temperatures or a low level of oxygen in the lake as daytime temperatures in the region have reached 42 °C these days,” a local resident said. “Some thought there may have been poisoning, but officials have already checked these fish and didn’t find any disease in the fish.”

The authorities are now arranging to bring fresh water to the lake and to install small water fountains to help aerate the lake water. Sagaing Region is in the northwest.

*Nanda Min lwun*
White House ‘horrified’ by massacre of hundreds in South Sudan

WASHINGTON, 23 April — The White House on Tuesday called the massacre of hundreds of civilians in South Sudan an abomination and called for an end to the cycle of violence there. The United Nations said on Monday that rebels slaughtered hundreds of civilians when they seized the South Sudan oil hub of Bentiu, hunting down men, women and children who had sought refuge in a hospital, mosque and Catholic church.

Rebel troops overran Bentiu, the capital of the oil producing Unity State, on Tuesday. Rebel spokesman Lul Ruai Koang denied responsibility for the slaughter, blaming government forces for the killings.

More than 1 million people have fled their homes since December when fighting erupted in the world’s youngest country between troops backing President Salva Kiir and soldiers loyal to his sacked vice president, Riek Machar.

“We are horrified by reports out of South Sudan that fighters aligned with rebel leader Riek Machar massacred hundreds of innocent civilians last week in Bentiu,” White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement.

The White House statement sought to capture some of the graphic nature of the violence.

“Images and accounts of the attacks shock the conscience: stacks of bodies found dead inside a mosque, patients murdered at a hospital, and dozens more shot and killed in the streets and at a church — apparently due to their ethnicity and nationality — while hate speech was broadcast on local radio,” Carney said.

Bulldozers have buried the dead in mass graves, and the number of people seeking protection at the UN camp in Bentiu has grown from 8,000 to more than 22,000 in two weeks, the spokesman said.

He said US officials were equally appalled by an armed attack last week at the UN mission in Bor, South Sudan, that killed at least 48 civilians and injured dozens more.

“These acts of violence are an abomination. They are a betrayal of the trust the South Sudanese people have put in their leaders,” he said.

Carney said both Kiir and Machar must make clear that attacks on civilians are unacceptable, that those responsible for violence on both sides must be brought to justice “and the cycle of violence that has plagued South Sudan for too long must come to an end.” —Reuters

Rwandan President Kagame says he is not ready to rule out third term

BOSTON, 23 April — Rwandan President Paul Kagame said on Tuesday it was too early to say whether he will seek a third term as head of the east African state, adding “whatever will happen, we’ll have an explanation.” Articles in pro-government newspapers in recent years have raised the prospect of him staying on after his mandate expires in 2017, a move that would anger his critics and require a constitutional change that would anger his critics and require a constitutional change.

“I have been asked when or whether I am going to the constitution. It is as if I am here to speak about the country’s recovery from its 1994 genocide, in which some 800,000 people were killed. Kagame believes European powers played a role in triggering the conflict and that the international community failed to intervene to stop it.

“What we learned is that people must be responsible for their own fate. If you wait for outsiders you will just perish,” Kagame, rail thin and wearing a sharp suit and dark-framed eyeglasses, told the audience. He accused the “international community” of destabilizing neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo by allowing people who committed the Rwandan genocide to later escape into Congo’s eastern hills and giving them guns.

“Images and accounts of the attacks shock the conscience: stacks of bodies found dead inside a mosque, patients murdered at a hospital, and dozens more shot and killed in the streets and at a church — apparently due to their ethnicity and nationality — while hate speech was broadcast on local radio,” Carney said.

Civilians flee from renewed attacks in Bentiu, Unity state of South Sudan

HANOI, 23 April — An American man of Vietnamese origin was found guilty and sentenced to death for an attempt to smuggle more than 1 kg (2.2 lb) of heroin from Vietnam to Australia, state-run newspapers reported on Wednesday.

Dinh Jason, born in 1973, was detained before boarding a flight to Australia at Ho Chi Minh City’s Tan Son Nhat International Airport on 12 June, 2013, with the drugs found hidden in his underwear, the Hano police-run Capital Security newspaper said.

Dinh told investigators he took the job to write off a $20,000 (11,881.42 pounds) debt and could receive $10,000 if the drugs were delivered.

He was convicted and sentenced at a one-day hearing on Tuesday by the People’s Court in Ho Chi Minh City. He has 15 days to appeal the verdict.

Trafficing as much as 100 grams of heroin can be punished by life in prison or death in Vietnam.

The Southeast Asian country has been executing prisoners by lethal injection since late 2013. It had previously used firing squads. —Reuters

Vietnam sentences American to death over heroin

Teen who stowed away on flight to Hawaii remains hospitalized

MAUI, 23 April — A teenage boy who stowed away on a flight from California to Hawaii in the frozen, oxygen-deprived wheel well of a passenger jet remained hospitalized on Tuesday, two days after his death-defying journey over the Pacific Ocean, a Hawaii official said.

The teenager, whose name has not been released, is “resting comfortably” at a hospital in Hawaii, spokeswoman Kayla Rosenfeld of the state’s Department of Human Services said in a statement.

The boy, who is from Santa Clara, California, is in the custody of the department’s Child Welfare Services division, and officials were working to ensure his safe return to California, she said.

He ran away from home on Sunday and traveled as a stowaway in the wheel well of a Hawaiian Airlines Boeing 767 on a more than five-hour flight from San Jose International Airport to Kahului Airport in Maui, the FBI said. He crept onto the tarmac in San Jose under cover of darkness, San Jose police said.

The teen quickly lost consciousness as temperatures in the wheel well sank as low as minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 62 degrees Celsius), according to FBI special agent Tom Simon in Hawaii.

The FBI said the plane eventually reached an altitude of 38,000 feet (11,852 meters), a level where oxygen is so scarce that survival is difficult.

The only way the teenager could have lived through such a journey was for his brain to cool down enough to require only a low level of oxygen, but not enough for his heart to stop beating, said Peter Hackett, director of the Institute for Altitude Medicine in Colorado.

“It is all a little hard to believe, but that’s the explanation,” Hackett said.

Since 1947, 105 people worldwide have been found to have stowed away on flights, and 80 of them died, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. That represents a survival rate of less than 24 percent. The last known stowaway to walk away from such an ordeal was in 2013 on a domestic flight in Nigeria. —Reuters

A 16-year-old boy is carried on a stretcher in Maui, Hawaii, on 20 April, 2014, as seen in this handout photo courtesy of Chris Sugidono, The Maui News. —Reuters
**Science & Technology**

**People take pictures of sculptures made of vegetables and fruits during the 15th China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Sci-Tech Fair in Shouguang of east China’s Shandong Province, on 20 April, 2014. The annual fair kicked off in Shouguang, the largest vegetable provider of Beijing, capital of China, on Sunday. The fair, which attracted exhibitors from over 20 countries and regions, will last till 30 May. XINHUA**

**China’s Huawei says investment in information technology to rise 14 percent in 2014**

**BEIJING, 23 April—Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the world’s No.2 telecoms equipment maker, expects investment in information technology to rise 14 percent in 2014, a senior executive said on Wednesday.**

“Investment focus will be in LTE (Long-Term Evolution), 5G and cloud computing,” Fan Chen, vice-president of accounting, told an analyst conference on Wednesday in Shenzhen, China, where the company is headquartered.

Huawei’s third-biggest smartphone manufacturer, booked 34 percent profit growth in 2013 and it targeted 2018 revenue to almost double the record reaped last year.

**Reuters**

**Chinese gov’t tackling security risks after Windows XP’s demise**

**BEIJING, 23 April—The Chinese government is making efforts to solve possible security risks for government agencies after Microsoft stopped providing security updates for Windows XP, an official said on Tuesday.**

“Security problems could arise because of a lack of technical support after Microsoft stopped providing services, making computers with XP vulnerable to hackers,” Yan Xiaohong, National Copyright Administration deputy director, told a Press conference.

Microsoft ended support for the 13-year-old operating system and help users continue using it, Yan said.

The Chinese government has invested hundreds of millions of US dollars in buying copyrighted software since 2010, when China launched an anti-piracy drive among government agencies, according to Yan.

By the end of 2013, all government agencies above the county level had been examined, and their practices of buying pirated software had been corrected, he said.

The government has also been moving to extend the campaign to big state-owned enterprises in recent years, according to Yan.

**Xinhua**

**Study shows risk of asteroid hitting Earth higher than thought**

**CAPE CANAVERAL, 23 April—The chance of a city-killing asteroid striking Earth is higher than scientists previously believed, a non-profit group building an asteroid-hunting telescope said on Tuesday.**

A global network that listens for nuclear weapons detonations detected 26 asteroids that exploded in Earth’s atmosphere from 2000 to 2013, data collected by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization shows.

The explosions include the 15 Feb. 2013, impact over Chelyabinsk, Russia, which left more than 1,000 people injured by flying glass and debris.

“There is a popular misconception that asteroid impacts are extraordinarily rare... that’s incorrect,” said former astronaut Ed Lu, who now heads the California-based B612 Foundation.

The foundation on Monday released a video visualization of the asteroid strikes in an attempt to raise public awareness of the threat.

Asteroids as small as about 131 feet — less than half the size of an American football field — have the potential to level a city, Lu said.

City-killer asteroids are forecast to strike about once every 100 years, but the prediction is not based on hard evidence.

B612 intends to address that issue with a privately funded, infrared space telescope called Sentinel that will be tasked to find potentially dangerous asteroids near Earth.

The telescope, which will cost about $250 million, is targeted for launch in 2018.

B612 takes its name from the fictional planet in the book “The Little Prince,” by French author and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

**Reuters**

**China’s unmanned submersible ready for deep waters**

**BEIJING, 23 April—An unmanned submersible has passed its final field test, marking another step in China’s drive to explore deep sea resources.**

Named “Haima,” or sea horse, the vehicle can dive a depth of 4,500 metres via remote control and has the highest proportion of China-made parts compared with the country’s other submersibles, according to a statement released on Tuesday by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Chinese scientists spent six years developing core technologies and making the machine, which went through multiple improvements following problems and malfunctions during tests in laboratory tanks and the ocean.

During tests, the vehicle achieved a maximum depth of 4,502 metres, and reached the central basin in the South China Sea for tasks such as deploying cables, collecting sedimentary rock samples and photographing.

The ministry said the vehicle enables the country to strengthen its hi-tech exploration of deep sea resources, and the ministry will cooperate with the Ministry of Land and Resources in devising work plans for Haima.

**Xinhua**

**A general view shows the headquarters of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province on 29 June, 2009. —Reuters**

**A student shows his firefighting robot in Weifang, east China’s Shandong Province, on 22 April, 2014. About 80 teams from middle and primary schools of the city took part in the robot competition. —XINHUA**

**A local resident shows a fragment thought to be part of a meteorite collected in a snow covered field in the Yekutski region outside the Urals city of Chelyabinsk on 24 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS**

**Mach 50,” Lu said. Mach 50 is 50 times the speed of sound, or roughly 38,000 mph. NASA already has a programme in place that tracks asteroids larger than 0.65 mile. An object of this size, roughly equivalent to a small mountain, would have global consequences if it struck Earth. An asteroid about 6 miles in diameter hit Earth some 65 million years ago, triggering climate changes that are believed to have caused the dinosaurs — and most other life on Earth at the time — to die off. “Chelyabinsk taught us that asteroids of even 20-metre (66-foot) size can have substantial effect,” Lu said. City-killer asteroids are forecast to strike about once every 100 years, but the prediction is not based on hard evidence. B612 intends to address that issue with a privately funded, infrared space telescope called Sentinel that will be tasked to find potentially dangerous asteroids near Earth. The telescope, which will cost about $250 million, is targeted for launch in 2018. B612 takes its name from the fictional planet in the book “The Little Prince,” by French author and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupery.**

**Reuters**

**Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the world’s No.2 telecoms equipment maker, expects investment in information technology to rise 14 percent in 2014, a senior executive said on Wednesday.**

“One investment focus will be in LTE (Long-Term Evolution), 5G and cloud computing,” Fan Chen, vice-president of accounting, told an analyst conference on Wednesday in Shenzhen, China, where the company is headquartered.

Huawei’s third-biggest smartphone manufacturer, booked 34 percent profit growth in 2013 and it targeted 2018 revenue to almost double the record reaped last year.

**Reuters**

**Chinese government launched an anti-piracy drive among government agencies, according to Yan. By the end of 2013, all government agencies above the county level had been examined, and their practices of buying pirated software had been corrected, he said. The government has also been moving to extend the campaign to big state-owned enterprises in recent years, according to Yan. Xinhua**

**A student shows his firefighting robot in Weifang, east China’s Shandong Province, on 22 April, 2014. About 80 teams from middle and primary schools of the city took part in the robot competition. —XINHUA**
CANDERRA, 23 April — The Australian government has approved the acquisition of an additional 58 F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced on Wednesday.

The F-35 will replace the F/A-18A/B Classic Hornet aircraft which have been the backbone of Australia’s air combat capability for over three decades. These aircraft have delivered exceptional service to Australia’s security but will be withdrawn from service by 2022. The new 58 F-35 aircraft, in addition to the 14 already approved in 2009, will provide the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) with a total of 72 aircraft to form three operational squadrons and one training squadron. According to statement, the government will also consider the option of acquiring an additional squadron of F-35 aircraft to replace the Super Hornets in the future.

The total cost of 12.4 billion AU dollars (11.6 billion US dollars) for this acquisition includes the cost of associated facilities, weapons and training. Abbott also said that Australia will purchase F-35 to ensure Australia maintains a regional air combat edge and provide a major boost to the Australian Defence Force’s (ADF) intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.—Xinhua

The F-35 cockpit of the world’s newest fifth generation fighter aircraft is shown with a simulation demonstration screen from a F-35 cockpit demonstrator at National Electronics Museum in Linthicum, Maryland, in this file photo, on 29 Sept, 2010. Xinhua

Korean prosecutors raid ferry firm founder’s home

SEOUL, 23 April — South Korean prosecutors investigating the fatal sinking of the Sewol ferry on Wednesday raided the home of Yoo Byung-un, the head of a family that owns the Chonghaejin Marine Co Ltd, the company that operated the vessel. Yonhap news agency reported that Yoo’s home and a church in which he is believed to have an interest were raided. The prosecutors’ office declined to comment and Reuters correspondents at the church in Seoul said it had been locked.

The finances of Chonghaejin and its complex share structure have come into the spotlight in recent days. Yoo was jailed for fraud for four years in the early 1990s. Last Wednesday’s accident looks set to be South Korea’s worst maritime disaster in 21 years in terms of loss of life. The Sewol shares on a routine trip from the port of Incheon, near Seoul, to the southern island of Jeju. Of the 476 passengers and crew on board, 339 were children and teachers on a high school outing. Only 174 people have been rescued and the remainder are all presumed to have drowned. The confirmed death toll on Wednesday was 128. Reuters

A family member of a missing passenger of capsized passenger ship Sewol which sank last Wednesday, cries after she checked a list of missing victims at a makeshift accommodation at a gymnasiun in the port city of Jindo on 23 April, 2014 — Reuters

People visit the naval ships at the Dagang Port in Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, on 22 April, 2014. Xinhua
Invitation to Open Tender

1. Opened Tenders are invited by Myanmar Radio and Television, Ministry of Information, for the following machinery to be purchased in foreign currency (USD):
   (a) 50 KW SW Radio Transmitter 1 Set
   (b) DVB-T2 Set-top Box 100,000 Nos.
   (c) Pocket Radio (2 Band, FM & MW) 50,000 Nos.
   (d) Pocket Radio (9 Band, FM, MW & SW) 50,000 Nos.

2. Opened Tender Forms are available from (9-4-2014) till (8-5-2014) daily between (9:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon).

3. Opened Tenders are to be submitted in the presence of the tender members on the (9-5-2014) between (9:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon). Those tenders exceeding the closing date will not be taken into consideration.

4. Rules regarding the opened tender forms; list of machinery and details are available at the following address.

   Machinery Purchasing Committee
   Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw
   Ministry of Information
   Phone: 067-79483, 067-79135, 067-79411

---

Yangon University of Foreign Languages Invitations for application of MA(EFL) Course

1. The First Year academic programme leading to the MA (English as a Foreign Language) degree for the 2014-2015 academic year will be opened in June 2014.

2. Those who wishes to attend the course should:
   (a) be Myanmar citizens
   (b) fulfil the requirements for admission to the First Year academic programme leading to the MA (EFL) degree.

3. Applications should be submitted by 16 May 2014 at the latest. Enquiries on admission may be made during office hours at Student Affairs Department, Yangon University of Foreign Languages.

   Ph: 514372, Ext *809.

---

Centre for Human Resource Development
(Yangon University of Foreign Languages)
Invitation for Application to Foreign Language Courses

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Myanmar as a foreign language.

- Commencement date of course: 12-5-2014
- Commencement date for submission of applications: 6-5-2014

Application to be submitted to:
Yangon University of Foreign Languages
Enquiry: Student’s Affairs Section
YUFL
Phone: 514372 (Ext *809)

---

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN853)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN853) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be tagged daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

---

Bahrain sentences 12 people for life for spying, Iran links

MANAMA, 23 April—Bahraini court has sentenced 12 men to life in prison for spying, receiving training from Iran’s Revolutionary Guard and possessing weapons and explosives, a defence lawyer and rights activist said on Tuesday.

Bahrain accuses Shi’ite power Iran of fueling unrest in the country since a 2011 uprising led by the Shi’ite Muslim community demanding reforms and more share in running the kingdom ruled by the Sunni Muslim Al-Khalifa dynasty.

Teheran denies the accusation, but defends the cause of Bahrain’s Shi’ite opposition.

Attorney Fatima al-Ahrad said the court convicted the men on Sunday, and sentenced two others to 15 years.

Some of the men were tried in absentia, said activist Mohammed al-Maskati. It was not clear how many of them were actually jailed.

Last year, Bahrain, which hosts the US Fifth Fleet, accused Iran’s Revolutionary Guard of setting up a “terrorist” cell that planned to attack its airport and government buildings.

Separately, the public prosecution charged eight men with being part of a terrorist group, state news agency BNA reported. The charges follow the killing of three policemen by a bomb on 3 March during a protest in a Shi’ite village.

Reuters
Katy Perry wants baby?

LOS ANGELES, 23 April — Singer Katy Perry has reportedly told friends that she is yearning to become a mother.

However, she doesn’t think she needs to be in a relationship for this. “Katy wants kids as soon as possible. She’s not talking about new boyfriends so much as finding a guy who can get her pregnant without expecting marriage,” radaronline quoted a source as saying.

The 29-year-old will be off for her The Prismatic World Tour to Belfast on 7 May and she thinks having a baby afterwards would be good for her. “If she goes through with this, it will be as much a publicity stunt as anything else in her career. As she admits to her friends all the time, she is addicted to attention,” said another source.

Katy Perry split from former husband and comedian Russell Brand in December 2011, and called off her two-year relationship with musician John Mayer in February. — PTI

Robin Williams confronts deep-rooted secret in drama ‘Boulevard’

NEW YORK, 23 April — A random drive down an unfamiliar road and a chance encounter with a stranger force a soft-spoken bank employee to reassess his life and acknowledge his true self in the new indie drama “Boulevard,” starring Oscar winner Robin Williams.

Williams, 62, most familiar to audiences as the sharp-witted, fast-talking comedian, shows his darker, more intense side in “Boulevard,” which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival that runs through 27 April.

The four-time Academy Award nominee, who took home the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor prize in 1998 for “Good Will Hunting,” plays a 60-year-old, meek loan officer comfortably attuned to his life and marriage until he meets a young man who reawakens his inner conflict.

“He is an older man, long married, who essentially comes out of the closet at an age when most couples have settled into the tedium of a kind of combative relationship,” said Geoffrey Gilmour, Tribeca Film Festival’s chief creative officer.

Williams’ character, Nolan Mack, must choose between hiding the secret he has suppressed for decades and continuing his life with a woman he loves and respects, or dealing with it and upending the only life he has ever known.

Although the film focuses on a gay man, director Dito Montiel, who picked up awards at the Sundance and Venice Film Festival in 2006 for his coming-of-age drama, “A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints,” said it is a story about a life and a relationship.

“For me it was about letting go and holding on, the weird push and pulls of life, when it comes to anything from a job to a relationship — the thin line,” the New York director explained. “It didn’t matter all that much that he was gay.”

Montiel thought Williams was perfect to play the repressed Nolan because the actor had no way to release his natural energy in the character he portrayed.

PTI

Angelina Jolie devoted to Brad Pitt

LOS ANGELES, 23 April — Actress Angelina Jolie is apparently devoted to her fiancée and actor Brad Pitt with whom she raises six kids. The couple, who got together in 2005, got engaged in 2012.

“Angie’s insanely devoted to Brad. She fell for him the minute they met. And he loves the way she is into him. Brad says he proposed to Angelina for the kids, but that’s not quite true,” showbizspy.com quoted a source as saying.

“They had hardly any time for each other, with him promoting a string of films while she spent 10 months working 18-hour days on In the Land of Blood and Honey. He was convinced she was pulling away from him and wouldn’t need him anymore. He felt marriage would give her a reason to stay.”

“She is very controlling of Brad, his wardrobe and everything. He does what she says,” said another source.

PTI

Milsap, Wiseman, Cochran get call from Country Music Hall of Fame

NEW YORK, 23 April — Ronnie Milsap, who scored a handful of cross-over hits in the 1970s and 1980s, bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman and songwriter Hank Cochran are this year’s inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Country Music Association said on Tuesday.

Milsap, the singer of hits such as 1977’s “It Was Almost Like a Song,” 1981’s “(There’s) No Gettin’ Over Me” and 1982’s “Any Day Now,” broke ground as a blind country music star and helped the genre win over pop music fans.

The 71-year-old pianist, who was born in North Carolina, suffered as a child from a congenital disorder. Milsap started his career as a rhythm and blues performer in the 1960s and served a session musician for Elvis Presley. In 1972, he was discovered by country star Charley Pride who convinced Milsap to move to Nashville and focus on country music. Milsap went on to win five Grammy awards over the next two decades and scored a total of 40 No 1 country songs along with selling more than 35 million albums in his career.

Milsap will be inducted as a “modern era” artist, while Wiseman will receive recognition as this year’s “veteran era” inductee and Cochran will be inducted as a songwriter. Wiseman, 88, a Virginia native who was stricken with polio as a child, rose to prominence in the 1950s as the singer of hits “I’m So Lonesome I Could Cry” and “The Ballad of Davy Crockett.”

Noted for his beard and nicknamed “The Voice with a Heart,” Wiseman earned popularity outside of country music with the folk revival of the 1960s.
Chelsea may field weakened team v Liverpool — Mourinho

MADRID, 23 April— Chelsea could field a weakened team in their top-of-the-table Premier League game at Liverpool on Sunday, said manager Jose Mourinho after Tuesday's 0-0 draw at Atletico Madrid.

With his second-placed side five points adrift of leaders Liverpool with only three games left, Mourinho is clearly prioritising next week's Champions League semi-final second leg at home to Atletico over their slim Premier League title hopes.

The Portuguese, however, said he would speak to the hierarchy at Chelsea before making a final decision on the team he would field at Anfield on Sunday. Asked on ITV Sport if he would select a weakened team against Liverpool, Mourinho replied: “I think I will but it’s something we have to speak about internally. It’s not a decision a manager can make on his own. “I can’t decide by myself, that’s a decision where I have to listen to the club. I’m just the manager, no more than that.”

He said Chelsea had already tried and failed to get the Premier League to switch the Liverpool game to Friday or Saturday in order to give his team more time to prepare for the second leg against Atletico.

“The fact the match is on a Sunday puts the problem not in my hands but the hands of the people who decide the game should be played on Sunday, not Saturday or Friday,” explained Mourinho. “We represent English football, we are the only English team left in Europe. “Spain has four teams and gives them all the conditions to have success,” added Mourinho, referring to the fact that the top sides in La Liga often get the chance to play on a Friday or a Saturday ahead of Champions League mid-week fixtures.

Chelsea will be without midfielders Frank Lampard and John Obi Mikel for the second leg against Atletico after they were booked in Tuesday's 0-0 draw.—Reuters

Chelsea’s coach Jose Mourinho

Smuggling charges dropped against Vietnamese cabin attendant

TOKYO, 23 April— Prosecutors have dropped charges against a Vietnamese cabin attendant detained in March on suspicion of attempting to take stolen goods to Vietnam, they said Wednesday.

Tokyo police had arrested Nguyen Bich Ngoc in March for allegedly carrying stolen clothes worth 125,000 yen by bus from a hotel in Osaka Prefecture to Kansai International Airport last September at the request of a Vietnamese resident of Japan.

The Tachikawa Branch of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office said they have decided it would be too difficult to get Nguyen to admit to knowing the goods she handled were stolen.

The 25-year-old employee of Vietnam Airlines has maintained she did not know the goods were stolen in her denial of the allegations.

The prosecutors released Nguyen on 14 April.

Nine detained for deadly China mine blast

KUNMING, 23 April — Nine people have been arrested after a coal mine gas explosion that killed 14 mine workers on Monday in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, local authorities said on Wednesday.

Among the nine are investors and managers of the Hongtutian Coal Mine in Fuyuan County in Qujing City, the city’s government said in a Press release.

The accident happened at around 12:30 am on Monday in a pit of the privately-run Hongtutian Coal Mine when 56 miners were underground. The other 42 escaped without injuries, it said. Meanwhile, 10 local officials have been removed or suspended from their posts pending further investigation.

Qujing is a major coal production base in eastern Yunnan Province. A mine flood on 7 April trapped 22 miners in the pit of a coal mine in Qujing’s outer Qilin District. Twenty-one have been confirmed dead.

© Kyodo News

Firefighters work beside a billboard that collapsed due to heavy rain and strong winds in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, on 22 April, 2014. The billboard overwhelmed three cars and one motorcycle, causing two people injured and long traffic jam.—Xinhua

Myanmar may field weakened team v Liverpool — Mourinho

Chelsea’s coach Jose Mourinho

© Reuters
Atletico Madrid, Chelsea draw Champions League semi 0-0

Madrid, 23 April — Atletico Madrid and Chelsea drew a tactical Champions League semi-final first leg 0-0 in the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Tuesday night to leave qualification in the air ahead of next week’s return leg in Stamford Bridge.

Atletico did nearly all of the attacking but were unable to break down Chelsea’s packed defence and midfield in a match which was more interesting than entertaining. A look at the starting elevens made it clear that this was to be a tactical and physical game as Eden Hazard failed to recover from injury and Chelsea left Fernando Torres as a sole striker, while Atletico included Diego Rivas in their starting 11 along with strikers Diego Costa and Raul Garcia, their midfield was based on the double pivot of Mario Suarez and Gabi Fernandez.

The first half was indeed a tactical affair in which Chelsea were quite happy to cede possession to the Spanish side, while getting virtually the entire side behind the ball and leaving Torres to plough a lone furrow up front.

The main incident of the first half saw Chelsea keeper Petr Cech forced out of the game after a collision with Garcia which caused him to fall badly and injure his elbow. 41-year-old Mark Schwarzer replaced Cech and one can only wonder what Atletico keeper Thibaut Courtois, who is on loan from the English club, must have thought.

Cech was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with a dislocated shoulder, but Schwarzer was untroubled apart from a Diego shot which went into his midriff.

Djokovic plays down injury fears, back for Madrid

Monte Carlo, 23 April — Novak Djokovic has played down fears he will miss this year’s French Open, saying the wrist injury he sustained at the Monte Carlo Masters last week is not as serious as first feared.

The Serb, second in the world rankings behind Rafael Nadal, said on his website (www.novak-djokovic.com) that he hoped to be fit to play in the Madrid Masters which starts on 4 May. "Fortunately, the situation with the injury is better than it first seemed," Djokovic, who was beaten by Roger Federer in Monte Carlo, said on Tuesday. "Doctors assured me that I will be ready for Madrid, then Rome and Roland Garros, just as it has been planned."

"However, I need to continue with the recovery process and full medical treatments. It means I will have to take a short break in order to recover as soon as possible." Djokovic is looking to win the French Open to complete his set of grand slam titles.

Benfica, Juventus meet after 21-year wait

Lisbon, 23 April — Benfica and Juventus, two great clubs hoping to end long waits for a European trophy, meet for the first time in more than 20 years in their Europa League semi-final first leg on Thursday. Hosts Benfi-ca, who have just won their domestic league, have not lifted a continental trophy since winning the old European Cup in 1962. Juventus, on course for a third successive Serie A title, have not added any major European silverware to their trophy cabinet since the Champions League in 1996.

Despite their long traditions in European football, the teams have met only twice before, in the 1968 European Cup semi-finals and the 1992/93 UEFA Cup quarter-finals, when the current Juventus coach Antonio Conte played in both legs of a 4-2 aggregate win for the Ital ians. Both teams are unbeaten in the Europa League since they parachuted into the competition after finishing third in their respective Champions League groups. Benfica, beaten in last season’s final by Chelsea, have barely had time to celebrate the Portuguese league title which they won for the fourth time in 20 years on Sunday by beating Olhanense 2-0.

The Eagles will be without Argentine midfielder Eduardo Salvio, who broke his arm during the first half of the Olhanense game and is out for the rest of the season. Juventus striker Carlos Tevez may be fit after missing his side’s last two games with a minor thigh injury and midfielder Arturo Vidal may also be back after a knee problem. The Juventus stadium will host the final on 14 May in Turin and, as the only reigning domestic champions standing still, they are obvious favourites to win the competition.

"Many players in this team have never won a European competition and Juventus haven’t won a trophy in Europe for so many years," Juventus midfielder Claudio Marchisio told UEFA.com. — Reuters

Monte Carlo, 23 April — Novak Djokovic has played down fears he will miss this year’s French Open, saying the wrist injury he sustained at the Monte Carlo Masters last week is not as serious as first feared.

The Serb, second in the world rankings behind Rafael Nadal, said on his website (www.novak-djokovic.com) that he hoped to be fit to play in the Madrid Masters which starts on 4 May. "Fortunately, the situation with the injury is better than it first seemed," Djokovic, who was beaten by Roger Federer in Monte Carlo, said on Tuesday. "Doctors assured me that I will be ready for Madrid, then Rome and Roland Garros, just as it has been planned."

"However, I need to continue with the recovery process and full medical treatments. It means I will have to take a short break in order to recover as soon as possible." Djokovic is looking to win the French Open to complete his set of grand slam titles.